excise duty at the rate of 10% and special excise duty at the rete of 5% of the basic excise duty. In the Union Budget, July, 1991, butter, along with certain other agro-based products, were fully exempted from excise duty, with effect from 25.7.91. The exemption to the agro-based products was given to promote the diversification of the country's agricultural economy, to increase the farmer's share of the consumer's income spent on processed agricultural produce and to encourage the adoption of modern post - Harvest technologies. While giving the exemption it was expected that the measure would lead to some reduction in consumer prices of such products.

(b) to (d). Butter being not a controlled item, its prices are determined by its demand and supply in the open market. Under the Statements of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977, no declaration as to the sale price and month and year of manufacturing/packing are required to be made on uncanned packages of butter. Hence, the prices of butter have tendencies to flucutuate at different periods in line with the supply and demand. In the Budget for the year 1992-93 no additional levies have been proposed on butter so as to protect the in retail prices of butter at selected centres namely Hyderabad, Calcutta, Madras and Kanpur indicates that there was an increase of around 50 paise per 100 grms packets of Amul Butter between January, 91 and January, 1992.

Development of S&M Towns of Maharashtra

3584. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the small and medium towns taken the Integrated Development of Small and Medium Town Scheme in Maharashtra during the year 1991-92;

(b) the amount released to Maharashtra for the purpose:

(c) whether the Union Government have received any proposals for including of additional small and medium towns under the scheme during the year 1992-93;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). Maharashtra was allocated three towns during the year and the Sanctioning Committee which met on 16th December, 1991 have already sanctioned RS. 25 lakhs each for the first three town in order of priority, namely, Buldana, Hingoli and Chaligaon and the saction letters to that effect have already been sent to the State Government.

(c) to (e). Not so far.

[*Translation*]

Dr. Satish Chandra Committee

3586. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
SHRI SHIVLAL NAGJI BHARI VEKARIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recommendations made by Dr. Satish Chandra Committee, appointed to include the Indian Languages in the UPSC Examination;

(b) whether the Union Government have since considered the said report;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have accepted the said recommendations; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (e). The report of the Dr. Satish Chandra Committee on the subject is still under consideration of the Government.

[English]

Raw Material for Paper Industry

3587. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the supply of conventional raw material like wood and bamboo for paper industry is on decline;

(b) the details of supply of these conventional resources during the last three years both in quantity and percentage of the total utilisation.

(c) the sources of non-conventional sources of raw material for paper industry; and

(d) whether such source is adequately available to compensate the decline in conventional resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). On account of the National Forest Policy, the use of forest based raw-material for industrial purposes is not being encouraged. Therefore, inadequate supply of conventional raw material is one of the problems being faced by paper Industry. Statistics of raw material utilisation are not being maintained.

(c) and (d). Government encourage the use of non-conventional raw-material for paper industry which include straw (from wheat, or rice), bagasse, stalks, grasses, rags, jute and jute waste, hemp, kenaf, waste paper, etc. Proposals in which minimum 75% pulp is of non-conventional raw materials are exempt from the provisions of compulsory licensing. There is no report of shortage of such raw material.

Export Obligation of Indian Companies

3588. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the multinational companies as also the big Indian Companies have fulfilleel the export obligations before getting the licences for the expansion of units and production of goods;

(b) if so, the details regarding loss of foreign exchange, the names of these companies which have not fulfilled the export obligations during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to insist on these companies to comply with such obligations in view of the introduction of recent libealisations policy; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). In all such cases where the export obligation is imposed at the time of grant of letter of intent for setting up new undertaking, production of new items or substantial expansion, the conversion of the letter of intent into an industrial licence is done only after either a legal agreement or bond is executed by the applicant and is